

Effect of different traditional thermal processing methods on the nutritional and anti-nutritional composition of the marginalized indigenous mung bean (*Vigna radiata*)

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Abstract

In the present study, the effects of fermentation, roasting, boiling, and boiling with potash on the nutritional and anti-nutritional composition of unsprouted mung bean seed was investigated. Mung bean (*Vigna radiata*), an underutilized bean was subjected to different processing methods such as boiling, boiling with potash, roasting, and fermentation. Chemical properties such as proximate, mineral, amino acid, and anti-nutrient analyses were done. A total of seventeen amino acids were assayed in mung bean subjected to different processing methods. The ordinary boiling method had the most significant ($P < 0.05$) retention in the amino acid content of mung bean seed. The result of the statistical analysis revealed that there was no significant increase ($P > 0.005$) in the glutamic acid content of mung bean subjected to different processing methods. Fermentation slightly increased the protein content from 25.45 to 25.70%, while the roasted sample had the lowest protein content of 22.15%. There was a fluctuation in the mineral content of processed mung bean. Roasting significantly increased the anti-nutritional (tannin) content from 0.057 to 0.094 mg/g, while saponin was reduced significantly from 35.73 to 6.67 mg/g. This study has shown that mung bean is on average high in protein content which can serve as a good supplement for dietary protein. Moreover, fermentation and boiling methods may better enhance the nutritional composition of mung bean in terms of retention of protein and reduction of anti-nutritional factors.

1. Introduction

There is an urgent need in developing/poor countries for alternative sources of food that would be affordable and also be rich in essential nutrients and energy to meet the food demand of the increasing population (Hossain *et al.*, 2016; César *et al.*, 2019). Interests in this regard are being redirected towards several leguminous proteins which may account for about 80% of dietary protein and have also provided a viable economic alternative for the supplementation of the animal protein (Famurewa and Raji, 2005; Hossain *et al.*, 2016). Leguminous proteins are mostly consumed where consumption of animal protein may be limited because of either cultural or religious, economic, social factors (Esenwah and Ikenebomeh, 2008). They may be eaten as meals when cooked or used commonly as condiments in their fermented form to enhance the flavours of foods (Oniofiok *et al.*, 1996; Achi., 2005)

Legume processing involves techniques for converting raw materials into finished and semi-finished products ready for consumption or storage (Ihekoronye and Ngoddy, 1985). This encompasses a wide range of techniques including fermenting, preserving with salt, sun drying and various types of cooking such as smoking, roasting, steaming, and oven baking (Fasoyiro *et al.*, 2012). Benefits of processing food include toxin removal, preservation, easy distribution and marketing, increased food consistency, increased year-round availability of many foods, inactivation, or destruction of heat-labile antinutritional factors among others (Chau *et al.*, 1997; Wang *et al.*, 1997; Vijayakumari *et al.*, 1998; Fasoyiro *et al.*, 2012)

Mung bean is a legume cultivated in many tropical African countries, it is a principal cash crop in some parts (Lambrides and Godwin, 2006; Motgotsi, 2006). This legume has been successfully introduced and grown

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in some Southern parts of Nigeria (Agugo, 2006). It has globose, white hilum glossy seeds. The seeds are small, ovoid and mostly green, but could also show other colours (Adeoye *et al.*, 2020). It can be processed in various ways such as roasting, boiling (until it is soft to eat), processed into flour, or processed to make starch noodles. The dried mature seed is cooked and consumed either alone or in combination with starchy staples (John and Oyetayo, 2016). However, antinutritional factors can limit the use of mung bean. It was reported that legumes are often cooked before their use in the human diet. This helps to improve protein quality by destruction or inactivation of heat-labile antinutritional factors (Chau *et al.*, 1997; Wang *et al.*, 1997; Vijayakumari *et al.*, 1998).

Recent claims about the nutritional content of sprouted mung bean seeds have aroused global interest in mung beans. In the present study, the effect of fermentation, roasting, boiling, and boiling with potash on the nutritional and antinutritional composition of unsprouted mung bean seed was investigated.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Sample collection

Mung bean (*Vigna radiata*) seeds used for this study were obtained from Igasi Akoko, in Akoko North West Local Government Area of Ondo State, Nigeria. These materials were identified and authenticated at the Department of Crop Soil and Pest Management of the Federal University of Technology, Akure and were taken to the microbiology laboratory for analysis. The seed was sorted to remove extraneous matters.

2.2 Processing of mung bean seed

Mung bean samples were divided into five portions (A, B, C, D, and E) of 500 g each using an electronic weighing balance (Electronic Balance, MT-301 Model) and were washed in clean tap water before processing.

2.2.1 Boiling

Sample A (500 g) was boiled in tap water (1:8 w/v) at 100°C on Gallenkamp thermostat hot plate (HPL-500-50 M) for 3 hrs and 20 mins until they become very soft when felt between fingers.

2.2.2 Boil with potash

Potash (2.63 g) was added to 500 g (sample B) and was cooked in tap water (1:8 w/v) at 100°C for 2 hrs 40 min on Gallenkamp thermostat hot plate (HPL-500-50 M) until they become soft when felt between fingers.

2.2.3 Roasting

The third portion C (500 g) was roasted using a hotbox oven (Heating Drying Oven DHG Model) at a temperature of 120°C for 2 hrs.

2.2.4 Fermentation

A 500 g of sample D was left to ferment in 1.5 L of sterile distilled water for seven days at ambient temperature in a covered plastic bowl.

Sample E (500 g) which serves as the control was analysed raw. The processing flow chart is shown in Figure 1.

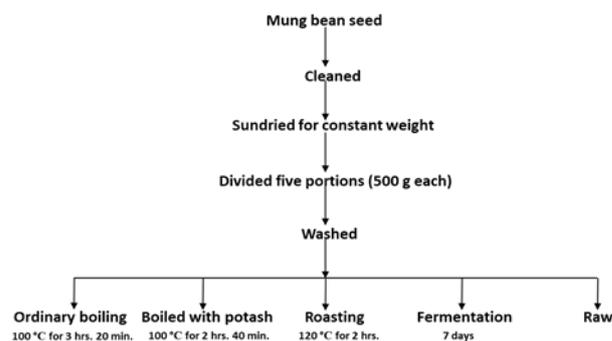


Figure 1. Mung bean processing flow chart

2.3 Chemical analysis

The samples subjected to fermentation, boiling, and boiling with potash, were oven-dried before chemical analyses were carried out on them. The analyses were done in triplicates.

2.3.1 Determination of proximate content

Estimates made of nitrogen as an index of crude protein, moisture, ash, fat, and crude fibre were done according to the method of (AOAC, 2000). The carbohydrate contents of the samples were determined when these parameters were subtracted from 100 *viz*: % Carbohydrate = 100 - (% Ash + % Protein + % Fat + % Fibre + % Moisture).

2.3.2 Mineral composition

Minerals such as (Calcium, Potassium, Sodium, Magnesium, Iron, Zinc, Phosphorus, Copper, and Manganese) were assayed by wet ashing method for each sample, followed by reading the level of mineral using a spectrophotometer. Atomic absorption spectrophotometer (Buck 201, VGP) was used in determining the mineral content (AOAC, 2002). Mineral content was calculated thus:

$$\text{Mineral (mg/100 g)} = R \times V \times D / \text{Wt.}$$

Where V = Volume of sample digested, R = Solution

concentration, Wt = Weight of sample and D = Dilution factor.

2.3.3 Determination of amino acids

Four stages were involved in the determination of the amino acid composition of mung bean samples using the method described by (Benitez, 1989; AOAC, 2006). About 5 g of the samples were dried to constant weight, hydrolysed, defatted, evaporated using a rotary evaporator and loaded into a Sequential Multi-Sample Amino Acid Analyzer (TSM). The quantity of each amino acid present in the sample was calculated in g/100 g or g/16 N protein by this formula:

Concentration of amino acid (g/100 g protein) = $NH \times W$ at $NH/2 \times Sstd \times C$

where $C = Dilution \times 16 / Sample\ weight\ (g) \times N\ \% \times 10\ vol.$ loaded divided by $NH \times W$ (nleu)

where $W = Width$ at half-height, $NH = Net$ height and $Nleu = Norleucin$.

The Norleucine equivalent (NE) of each amino acid present in the standard mixture was calculated by the formula:

$NE = Area\ of\ Norleucine\ peak / Area\ of\ each\ amino\ acid$

A constant "S std" was calculated for each amino acid in the standard mixture.

$S\ std = NE\ std \times Molecular\ Weight \times \mu\ Moles\ Amino\ Acid\ std$

2.3.4 Determination of antinutrients

2.3.4.1 Trypsin inhibitor activity (TIA)

Trypsin inhibitor activity was done using the procedure by (Kakade *et al.*, 1974). Each dilution of the sample was used with BAPNA substrate and trypsin solution as described by (Kakade *et al.*, 1974) at 37°C. The reaction was allowed to take place in a water bath for 10 min and their absorbance read at 410 nm against each sample blank.

2.3.4.2 Extraction of trypsin from samples

About 1.0 g of finely ground and sieved samples of the seed flour was defatted for 3 hrs using n-hexane. The sample was mixed with 50 mL of 0.01 M NaOH, and the pH was adjusted to 9.5 using 0.1 M NaOH or 0.1 M HCl. The mixture was left for 10 min at 1,000 rpm. The extract from each sample was diluted with distilled water to a dilution whereby 1 mL extract produced trypsin inhibition activity of between 40 and 60%.

2.3.4.3 Tannin determination

Tannin's determination was done using the method

described by (Makkar and GoodChild, 1996). The absorbance was read at 725 nm using AJ-C03 Spectrophotometer against a reagent blank concentration of the same solution from a standard tannic acid curve that was prepared.

Tannic acid per mL of extract = $R \times 1000 / volume\ of\ sample\ used\ (mL)$

where $R = result\ read\ from\ the\ standard\ tannin\ acid\ solution\ curve.$

2.3.4.4 Determination of phytate

Phytate determination was done according to the method of (Wheeler and Ferrel, 1971). About 4 g samples were soaked in 100 mL of 2 % HCl for 3 hrs and then filtered through a Whatman No. 1 filter paper. About 25 mL was taken out of the filtrate and placed inside a conical flask and 5 mL of 0.3% of ammonium thiocyanate solution was added as an indicator. After which, 53.5 mL of distilled water was added for proper acidity, and this was titrated against 0.00566 g/mL of standard iron (iii) chloride solution that contains about 0.00195 g of iron/mL until a brownish-yellow colouration persists for 5 min.

$Phytate = Titre\ value \times 1.19 \times 3.55\ mg/g$

2.3.4.5 Determination of saponin

The spectrophotometric method of (Brunner *et al.*, 1984) was used for Saponin determination. The absorbance was read against the blank at 380 nm using AJ-C03 Spectrophotometer.

2.4 Statistical analysis

All data were statistically analysed by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and means were separated by Duncan's Multiple Range Test (SPSS 16.0 version). Differences were considered significant at $P < 0.05$.

3. Results and discussion

The result of the proximate composition (Table 1) revealed that there were differences ($P < 0.05$) in the moisture contents of the samples processed by different processing methods. The moisture content of the raw sample was 4.81%. There was an increase in the moisture content of boiled, boiled with potash and fermented samples from 4.81 to 7.30, 8.59 and 8.94%, respectively. The roasted sample had the lowest moisture content of 3.72%. This might be a result of a loss of moisture during the application of dry heat during roasting. This agrees with the work of Ndidi *et al.* (2014) on the effects of processing (boiling and roasting) on the

Table 1. Proximate composition of processed and unprocessed mung bean

Proximate composition (%)	Processing methods				
	Boiling	Boiled with Potash	Roasting	Fermentation	Raw
Moisture content	7.30±0.01 ^c	8.59±0.12 ^d	3.72±0.90 ^a	8.94±0.45 ^c	4.81±0.01 ^b
Crude fibre	1.83±0.17 ^{ab}	2.40±0.30 ^c	2.47±0.20 ^c	1.61±0.01 ^a	2.06±0.11 ^a
Ash content	3.04±0.50 ^b	3.30±0.55 ^c	4.14±0.60 ^c	2.02±0.45 ^a	3.59±0.01 ^d
Crude fat	11.31±0.35 ^c	6.09±0.01 ^a	8.56±0.18 ^b	12.77±0.01 ^c	12.13±0.26 ^d
Crude protein	24.08±0.01 ^c	23.46±0.01 ^b	22.15±0.49 ^a	25.70±0.40 ^d	25.45±0.01 ^d
Carbohydrate content	52.44±0.10 ^c	56.16±0.01 ^d	58.96±0.01 ^c	49.48±0.01 ^a	51.96±0.01 ^b

Values are expressed as mean±SD (n = 3). Values with the same superscript letters with the same row are not significantly different (P>0.05).

nutritional and antinutritional properties of Bambara groundnuts (*Vigna subterranea* [L.] Verdc.) from Southern Kaduna, Nigeria. The highest moisture content observed in the fermented sample could be a result of the absorption of free water during fermentation. There were no significant (p>0.05) differences in the crude fibre and ash content of processed samples which is often an important dietary composition (Nugraheni *et al.*, 2020). This agreed with the observation reported by (Mubarak, 2005) for mung beans as affected by some home traditional processes, while fermentation reduced the ash content to 2.02%. The reduction might be attributed to the fermentative activities of the fermenting microbes. Roasting and boiling with potash had a more significant reduction in lipid content than roasting. The significant reduction in crude fat observed in the roasted sample might be a result of the application of dry heat during processing (Ndidi *et al.*, 2014). Also, a reduction (p<0.05) of the crude fat content of the sample boiled with potash (6.09%) could be because of the addition of potash during processing. The protein content of the raw sample was 25.45%. This is close to 27.5% reported by Mubarak (2005). The roasted sample had the lowest protein value of 22.1%, while the sample boiled with potash had a value of 23.46%. There were no significant differences (p>0.05) in the total protein contents in the sample processed by ordinary boiling, boiling with potash and roasting. Fermentation only, slightly increased the protein content from 25.45 to 25.63% which could be attributed to the proteolytic activities of

the fermenting microbial population (John and Oyetayo, 2016; Hao *et al.*, 2020). However, the insignificant increase in the protein content of the fermented sample may be due to the considerable loss of nutrient to the free water during fermentation (Malomo *et al.*, 2015).

The mineral composition of the processed mung bean changed during processing (Table 2). There was a significant difference (p<0.05) in the potassium content of mung bean subjected to different processing methods. Reduction (p<0.05) in potassium content of samples processed by boiling and boiling with potash and no significant increase (p>0.05) in sodium, calcium, magnesium, copper, and manganese content of mung bean subjected to different processing methods. However, each of the processing methods slightly increased in zinc, iron, and phosphorus content of the processed samples. Differences observed in the mineral content of the sample processed by roasting could be attributed to the dry heat applied during processing. (Haytowitz and Mathews, 1983) had earlier reported that cooking in boiling water caused a great loss of K (24%) and Fe (8%), while a loss of 22% of Mg from mature cowpeas when cooked by autoclaving. Salama and Ragab (1997) reported that kidney beans cooked using conventional and microwave methods had different retention rates of minerals. These results agree with those reported by (Khalil, 2001) for guar and faba beans. Generally, the decrease in mineral contents of boiled samples may be due to leaching out during boiling

Table 2. Mineral composition of processed and unprocessed mung bean

Minerals (mg/g)	Processing methods				
	Boiling	Boiled with Potash	Roasting	Fermentation	Raw
Potassium	15.65±0.01 ^b	6.17±0.17 ^a	16.68±0.01 ^c	25.77±0.01 ^c	17.24±0.01 ^d
Sodium	2.64±0.12 ^b	2.40±0.40 ^{ab}	2.43±0.43 ^{ab}	1.95±0.45 ^a	2.68±0.01 ^{ab}
Calcium	2.29±0.29 ^a	2.74±0.24 ^b	2.01±0.10 ^a	3.27±0.27 ^c	2.37±0.01 ^a
Magnesium	0.54±0.40 ^a	0.78±0.50 ^b	0.50±0.10 ^a	0.60±0.10 ^a	0.59±0.95 ^a
Zinc	0.74±0.40 ^a	0.74±0.20 ^a	0.75±0.50 ^a	0.79±0.90 ^a	0.73±0.01 ^a
Iron	0.94±0.40 ^c	0.70±0.10 ^{ab}	0.77±0.70 ^b	0.72±0.20 ^{ab}	0.65±0.01 ^a
Phosphorus	4.66±0.01 ^b	3.91±0.81 ^b	5.75±0.75 ^c	2.66±0.66 ^a	3.83±0.01 ^b
Copper	0.020±0.10 ^c	0.02±0.01 ^c	0.00±0.00 ^a	0.02±0.01 ^c	0.01±0.01 ^b
Manganese	0.21±0.10 ^b	0.20±0.50 ^b	0.23±0.30 ^b	0.12±0.10 ^a	0.23±0.00 ^b

Values are expressed as mean±SD (n = 3). Values with the same superscript letters with the same row are not significantly different (P>0.05).

processes. These data are in the same trend as the report of (Mubarak, 2005) and the work of (Mansour and El-Adawy, 1994) on boiled fenugreek seeds.

There were fluctuations in the amino acid contents of the mung bean samples subjected to different processing methods (Tables 3 and 4). However, each of the processing methods had a slight increase and decrease in the amino acid content of the processed samples. All processing methods slightly increased the concentration of glutamic acid, glycine, and a slight reduction in serine, proline, cysteine, and isoleucine. All processing methods slightly increased the concentration of leucine (except the fermentation process). Also, there was a slight increase in the concentration of threonine by fermentation and roasting, these agree with the work of (Mubarak, 2005).

All processing methods were able to achieve a

reduction in the antinutrient contents of mung bean seed (Table 5). Fermentation and roasting were the most effective processing methods that revealed a significant reduction ($p < 0.05$) in the antinutrient contents of the samples. Saponin and trypsin inhibitor activities were significantly ($p < 0.05$) reduced by fermentation and roasting processes. The reduction in phytic acid and trypsin inhibitor by fermentation agrees with the work of (Mubarak, 2005) and (Oyarekua, 2011). None of the processing methods further reduced the tannin content of the samples, but an increase was observed from 0.57 to 0.94 in the sample processed by boiling with potash. This could be attributed to the effect of potash in conjunction with thermal effect during processing and this agrees with the report of Arinola and Adesina (2014).

Table 3. Essential amino acid in raw and processed mung bean samples

Amino Acid (g/100 g)	Processing methods				
	Boiling	Boiled with Potash	Roasting	Fermentation	Raw
Lysine	5.24±0.24 ^a	5.08±0.80 ^a	6.97±0.01 ^b	6.97±0.01 ^c	6.75±0.50 ^c
Threonine	3.09±0.09 ^b	2.84±0.40 ^a	4.08±0.80 ^d	4.08±0.01 ^d	3.53±0.30 ^c
Histidine	3.47±0.70 ^c	3.10±0.10 ^b	2.59±0.01 ^a	2.59±0.90 ^a	3.00±0.10 ^b
Valine	4.71±0.5 ^c	3.30±0.30 ^a	3.85±0.01 ^b	3.86±0.02 ^b	4.44±0.01 ^c
Methionine	1.72±0.12 ^c	1.41±0.11 ^b	1.02±0.70 ^a	1.02±0.12 ^a	1.25±0.20 ^{ab}
Isoleucine	3.53±0.23 ^c	3.30±0.01 ^b	2.55±0.02 ^a	2.55±0.02 ^a	3.81±0.11 ^d
Leucine	8.68±0.01 ^c	8.00±0.01 ^b	8.20±0.01 ^b	7.21±0.21 ^a	7.90±0.50 ^b
Phenylalanine	5.40±0.20 ^c	5.15±0.01 ^b	4.60±0.00 ^a	4.55±0.50 ^a	5.00±0.01 ^f

Values are expressed as mean±SD (n = 3). Values with the same superscript letters with the same row are not significantly different ($P > 0.05$).

Table 4. Non-essential amino acid in raw and processed mung bean

Amino Acid (g/100 g)	Processing methods				
	Boiling	Boiled with Potash	Roasting	Fermentation	Raw
Arginine*	7.61±0.19 ^c	6.87±0.35 ^b	6.39±0.90 ^a	6.39±0.90 ^a	6.39±0.80 ^a
Aspartic acid	9.15±0.50 ^a	9.55±0.50 ^b	12.22±0.25 ^c	12.25±0.15 ^d	10.61±0.11 ^d
Serine*	4.40±0.20 ^c	3.99±0.20 ^b	3.31±0.01 ^a	3.31±0.01 ^a	4.86±0.40 ^d
Glutamic acid	17.20±1.00 ^a	16.00±1.00 ^a	16.21±0.21 ^a	16.21±1.01 ^a	15.68±1.18 ^a
Proline*	2.03±0.13 ^a	3.05±0.15 ^c	2.44±0.34 ^b	2.44±0.14 ^b	3.66±0.01 ^d
Glycine	4.80±0.01 ^b	4.08±0.80 ^{ab}	4.32±0.32 ^{ab}	4.32±0.2 ^{ab}	3.70±0.70 ^a
Alanine	5.01±0.11 ^b	4.00±0.02 ^a	4.79±0.19 ^b	4.81±0.15 ^b	4.18±0.01 ^a
Cystine*	1.19±0.19 ^b	0.93±0.30 ^a	0.73±0.01 ^a	0.73±0.30 ^a	1.32±0.22 ^b
Tyrosine*	4.44±0.24 ^c	3.50±0.01 ^b	2.81±0.31 ^a	2.81±0.30 ^a	3.33±0.13 ^b

Values are expressed as mean±SD (n = 3). Values with the same superscript letters with the same row are not significantly different ($P > 0.05$).

Table 5. Antinutrient content of processed and unprocessed mung bean samples

Anti-nutrient content (mg/g)	Processing methods				
	Boiling	Boiled with Potash	Roasting	Fermentation	Raw
Phytic acid	7.82±0.42 ^c	5.76±0.01 ^b	6.59±0.00 ^b	6.18±0.41 ^{ab}	7.83±0.42 ^c
Tannin	0.057±0.01 ^a	0.094±0.01 ^b	0.057±0.01 ^a	0.057±0.01 ^a	0.057±0.01 ^a
Trypsin inhibitor	48.77±0.01 ^d	34.15±0.01 ^c	29.47±0.01 ^a	32.44±0.01 ^b	65.68±0.50 ^c
Saponin	12.64±0.00 ^d	11.00±0.90 ^c	6.67±0.01 ^a	9.37±0.94 ^b	35.73±0.09 ^c

Values are expressed as mean±SD (n = 3). Values with the same superscript letters with the same row are not significantly different ($P > 0.05$).

4. Conclusion

This study examined the effect of different processing methods on the nutritional and antinutritional properties of mung bean (*V. radiata*). The results of the proximate analysis indicated that natural fermentation slightly increases the protein content with a reduction in the carbohydrate content of mung bean. The result of the mineral composition revealed that mung bean is a good source of mineral elements. It was found to be a good source of both essential and non-essential amino acids. The antinutrient content was reduced by fermentation. Fermentation and cooking could better enhance the nutritional composition of mung beans.

Conflict of interests

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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